

## Message Text

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47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 031546Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6854

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1523

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION

1. POPULAR MOSCOW EVENING NEWSPAPER, "VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA," PUBLISHED ARTICLE FEBRUARY 1 ENTITLED "INVITATION TO NOWHERE" CONCERNING "FALSE" ISRAELI INVITATIONS ("VYZOVY") TO SOVIET CITIZENS FOR EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. ARTICLE LISTS NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH UNNAMED SOVIET CITIZENS (PRESUMABLY JEWS) RECEIVED SUCH INVITATIONS FROM ISRAELIS CLAIMING TO BE RELATIVES, BUT WHOM THE FORMER CLAIMED NOT TO KNOW. SOVIET CITIZENS INVOLVED REPORTEDLY HAD NEVER EXPRESSED DESIRE TO EMIGRATE AND WERE OUTRAGED BY "PROVOCATION" OF ISRAELI AUTHORITIES IN ALLOWING INVITATIONS TO BE SENT. ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT SOVIET CITIZENS SELECTED TO RECEIVE INVITATIONS ARE PROBABLY VICTIMS OF RANDOM USE OF MOSCOW TELEPHONE BOOK, AND THAT AIM OF SENDING "FALSE" INVITATIONS IS TO BOOST IMMIGRATION INTO ISRAEL WHICH NOW EXPERIENCING HIGH RE-EMIGRATION RATE.

2. JEWISH ACTIVIST SOURCE COMMENTED TO EMBOFF FEBRUARY 3 THAT ARTICLE WAS "OMINOUS" SINCE MANY PROSPECTIVE EMIGRANTS RECEIVE INVITATIONS FROM ISRAELIS WITH WHOM THEY DO NOT HAVE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS. HE THOUGHT THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES MIGHT HAVE IN MIND TO

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LIMIT JEWISH EMIGRATION FURTHER BY BASING EXIT

PERMISSION STRICTLY ON REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES AND "PROOF" OF CLOSE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EXIT VISA APPLICANT AND PERSON SENDING INVITATION. HE SAW "FALSE" INVITATION ISSUE CONNECTED MORE WITH THOSE JEWS WHO RECEIVED THEM AND APPLIED FOR EMIGRATION, RATHER THAN WITH THOSE WHO WERE "OUTRAGED" BY THEIR RECEIPT. IN ANY CASE, HE THOUGHT ARTICLE WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF RAISING FURTHER DOUBTS IN MINDS OF THOSE THINKING OF APPLYING FOR EMIGRATION. SOURCE ALSO MENTIONED THAT LOCAL JEWISH ACTIVISTS HAD RECENTLY HEARD OF PROPAGANDA LECTURES IN SOVIET INSTITUTIONS IN WHICH ISSUE OF "FALSE" INVITATIONS RAISED. LECTURES WERE REPORTEDLY CENTERED ON EMIGRANTS WITH EXIT PERMISSION FOR ISRAEL WHO GO TO OTHER COUNTRIES, WITH IMPLICATION THAT "REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES" PRINCIPLE WAS ACCEPTABLE, BUT THAT EMIGRATION TO COUNTRIES IDEOLOGICALLY OPPOSED TO SOVIET UNION WAS NOT.

3. U.S. CORRESPONDENT RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF (BEFORE PUBLICATION OF ARTICLE) THAT HE HAD HEARD FROM RELIABLE THIRD-COUNTRY JOURNALIST THAT SOVIETS MAY BE PLANNING SOME SORT OF ACTION AGAINST EMIGRANTS WHO APPLY FOR ISRAEL BUT PLAN TO SETTLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THIRD-COUNTRY JOURNALIST CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY "SOVIET OFFICIAL SOURCE" THAT WORD IS GOING OUT TO LOCAL VISA OFFICES TO SCRUTINIZE EXIT APPLICATIONS CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO DETERMINE IF APPLICANT INTENDED TO SETTLE IN ISRAEL OR IN THE WEST. IN CASE OF LATTER, SOVIET VISA OFFICIALS ARE ALLEGEDLY BEING TOLD TO DELAY. (COMMENT: RECIPIENTS OF EXIT VISAS FOR ISRAEL CALLING AT EMBASSY HAVE NOT NOTED SUCH A TREND TO US.) LENINGRAD JEW VISITING MOSCOW FEBRUARY 1 ALSO TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE AND NUMBER OF LOCAL EXIT VISA APPLICANTS HAD RECENTLY BEEN INFORMED BY LENINGRAD AUTHORITIES THAT THEIR APPLICATIONS COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED. THEY WERE NOT GIVEN OUTRIGHT REFUSALS, BUT MERELY HAD THEIR DOCUMENTS RETURNED TO THEM, WITH VAGUE REFERENCES TO APPLICATION AT SOME FUTURE TIME.

4. SEPTEL REPORTS INFORMATION FROM DUTCH CONSUL WHO  
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REPORTED SIGNIFICANT DROP IN EMIGRATION IN JANUARY (TO ABOUT 1,100), BUT WITH MOST OF DECREASE COMING IN FIRST HALF OF MONTH.

5. COMMENT: AT THE VERY LEAST, THE ABOVE MAY INDICATE THAT EMIGRATION POLICY IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW BY THE SOVIETS.  
MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DATA, JEWS, REFUGEES, EMIGRANTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 JUN 2003  
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**TAGS:** PINT, SREF, PFOR, IS, UR, US  
**To:** STATE  
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